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Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

Summary record of the 449th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 3 February 2003, at 3 p.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Chen Jian (Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management)
Chairman: Mr. Mahendran ..... (Sri Lanka)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Acting Chairman** expressed the Ad Hoc Committee's condolences to the families of those lost in the tragic accident of the United States space shuttle Columbia on 1 February 2003.

Adoption of the agenda

2. *The agenda was adopted.*

Election of the Chairman

3. **The Acting Chairman** said that the former Chairman, Ambassador de Saram of Sri Lanka, had returned to his capital, but that the new Sri Lankan Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Mahendran, had agreed to serve as Chairman. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to elect Ambassador Mahendran as Chairman.

4. *Mr. Mahendran (Sri Lanka) was elected Chairman by acclamation.*

5. *Mr. Mahendran (Sri Lanka) took the Chair.*

Election of other officers

6. **The Chairman** said that all of the other officers of the Bureau had returned to their capitals. The Ad Hoc Committee had received the nominations of Mr. Stephens of Australia and Mr. Thamrin of Indonesia for two of Vice-Chairman posts and Mozambique had indicated that it would soon submit a nomination for the third post. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Ad Hoc Committee wished to elect Mr. Stephens of Australia and Mr. Thamrin of Indonesia as Vice-Chairmen.

7. *Mr. Stephens (Australia) and Mr. Thamrin (Indonesia) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.*

8. **The Chairman** said that the former Rapporteur had also returned to his capital but his delegation, that of Madagascar, had nominated Mr. Randrianarivony to replace him. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Ad Hoc Committee wished to elect Mr. Randrianarivony as Rapporteur.

9. *Mr. Randrianarivony (Madagascar) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

Other matters

10. **The Chairman** said that, in his capacity as Chairman, he had been invited to attend the forthcoming Summit Meeting of the XIII Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, to be held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003. He would inform the Committee of any decisions taken at the Non-Aligned Movement Summit relevant to the Committee's work at its forthcoming substantive session, to be held in New York on 8 July 2003.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.